

GREENBELT, MARYLAND, HISTORIC DISTRICT

Roughly bounded by Edmonston Road, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt

Greenbelt was the first and largest of three government-sponsored planned communities in the United States built on the “garden city” principles and architectural ideals of the mid-1930s.

These were sponsored as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal attempts to pull the country out of the Depression and to solve the nation’s housing crisis. Greenbelt was also intended to be a low-cost suburban community that would help decentralize the population of Washington, D.C. It was never fully completed as envisioned, but most of its Depression-era houses survive, surrounded by open spaces and carefully separated pedestrian paths and roadways. The studies that produced Greenbelt helped to establish regional planning as a discipline.